



# NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

## EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

December's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) remained constant over the month at 3.7 percent, and dropped six-tenths of a percentage point from the same time last year as seen in Northeast Table 1. Small changes over the month included a decrease of 240 people from the *Civilian Labor Force*, and a decrease of 50 unemployed people. However, the year-over-year scenario shows an increase of 2,900 persons in the *Civilian Labor Force* and a reduction of 370 persons in the number unemployed. Over 1,800 of the growth in the *Civilian Labor Force* was in Bonneville County, and the combination of Bingham and Jefferson Counties added over 1,100 persons. This growth, along with the decrease in the unemployment rate, shows that the LMA continues to have sustainable jobs for its work force. The unemployment rate for Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, decreased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month and four-tenths of a percentage point from December 2001.

Bonneville County had the lowest unemployment rate in the LMA at 3.4 percent in December, while Jefferson and Butte Counties were only a few tenths of a percentage point higher. (See State Table 1: Labor Force on page 3 for all December county and LMA unemployment rates.) Bingham County had the highest unemployment rate for the LMA at 4.4 percent. Unemployment rates for the other Northeast Idaho counties not included in the LMA remained relatively stable; Clark County (4.5 percent), Madison County (2.0 percent), and Teton County (3.4 percent) changed very little in the month-over-month and year-over-year comparisons. The unemployment rates in Custer and Lemhi Counties decreased 1.1 and 1.2 percentage points, respectively, while the rate in Fremont County decreased 1.0 percentage point from December 2001.

*Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 180 from November to December 2002 as job gains in *Service-Producing Industries* (590) outweighed losses in *Goods-Producing Industries* (410). Losses in *Construction*, almost 500, were heavy as favorable weather permitted many jobs to continue into the

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment  
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, and Jefferson Counties

	Dec 2002*	Nov 2002	Dec 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
<b>INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>					
<b>Seasonally Adjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	82,950	83,190	79,960	-0.3	3.7
Unemployment	3,070	3,120	3,440	-1.6	-10.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.7	3.7	4.3		
Total Employment	79,880	80,080	76,530	-0.2	4.4
<b>Unadjusted</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	82,040	83,080	78,980	-1.3	3.9
Unemployment	3,140	2,800	3,490	12.1	-10.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.4	4.4		
Total Employment	78,900	80,270	75,490	-1.7	4.5
<b>JOB BY PLACE OF WORK</b>					
<b>Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**</b>					
<b>Goods-Producing Industries</b>	10,180	10,590	9,240	-3.9	10.2
Mining & Construction	4,550	5,030	3,920	-9.5	16.1
Manufacturing	5,630	5,560	5,320	1.3	5.8
Food Processing	2,800	2,810	2,910	-0.4	-3.8
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	590	580	480	1.7	22.9
All Other Manufacturing	2,240	2,170	1,930	3.2	16.1
<b>Service-Producing Industries</b>	53,710	53,120	53,180	1.1	1.0
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,430	2,370	2,380	2.5	2.1
Wholesale Trade	5,150	5,100	5,640	1.0	-8.7
Retail Trade	11,380	11,530	11,150	-1.3	2.1
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,980	2,000	1,890	-1.0	4.8
Services	22,170	21,450	21,370	3.4	3.7
Government Administration	5,190	5,110	5,520	1.6	-6.0
Government Education	5,410	5,560	5,230	-2.7	3.4
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

month of November; these layoffs are normally seen in October. Combined losses in *Retail Trade* and *Government Education* equaled 300 jobs as seasonal hiring has diminished over the past several years with stores using full-time employees instead of hiring part-time help. A large gain of 720 jobs occurred in *Services*; *Health Services*, *Business Services*, and *Social Services* continued to add jobs.

Year-over-year, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 1,470. Gains in *Goods-Producing Industries* (940) were almost double that of gains in *Service-Producing Industries* (530). *Services* increased by 800 jobs as commercial growth continued in the LMA. *Construction* grew by 630 while large projects, such as the expansion of Anheuser Busch and developments around Sunnyside Road, continued. Residential construction also showed job growth, particularly in Bonneville County. *Manufacturing* showed large growth of 310 jobs with gains in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* and *All Other Manufacturing* outweighing losses in *Food Processing*. Losses were noted in *Wholesale Trade* and *Government Administration* because state budget cuts led to decreased employment.

## SPECIAL TOPIC

### 2002 Wage Survey for Eastern Idaho

The 2002 Idaho Occupational Employment & Wage Survey was released at the end of January with the newest wage figures for Eastern Idaho, excluding

the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). Because Bannock County is recognized as the Pocatello MSA, a separate survey covers that county. Therefore, the Eastern Idaho survey consists of 15 counties; Bear Lake, Bingham, Bonneville, Butte, Caribou, Clark, Custer, Franklin, Fremont, Jefferson, Lemhi, Madison, Oneida, Power, and Teton Counties. The survey covers 22 of the 23 major occupational groups using the *Standard Occupational Classification* (SOC) System recognized nationally by the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics. The survey period is from October 2001 through August 2002.

Northeast Idaho Table 2: Highest Paying Occupations provides some highlights of the data gathered about Northeast Idaho in the wage survey.

Northeast Idaho Table 2: Highest-Paying Occupations	
Occupation	Hourly Salary
Family & General Practitioners	\$65.71
Speech-Language Pathologists	\$43.64
Physical Scientists, All Other	\$36.23
Engineers, All Others	\$35.33
Computer Software Engineers	\$35.26
Computer & Information Sys Mgr	\$35.03
Pharmacists	\$33.07
Natural Sciences Managers	\$32.78
Education Administrators Preschool & Child Care Center/Program	\$34.44
Property, Real Estate, & Community Association Managers	\$33.00

A few wages in the education system are not listed because of the way in which these occupations are compensated and the time frame in which work is performed throughout the year. Northeast Idaho Table 3: Number of Workers by Occupation shows the occupations that have the highest estimated number of employed persons.

Northeast Idaho Table 3: Highest Number of Workers by Occupation	
Occupation	# of workers
Cashiers	3,230
Retail Salespersons	2,250
Office Clerks, General	2,030
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	1,430
Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	1,340
Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive	1,300
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Vocational Education	1,280
Graders & Sorters, Agricultural Products	1,250
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	1,210

Northeast Table 4: Wage Survey Results provides a list of the occupational classifications that were used for the survey. *Office & Administrative Occupations* showed the highest number of total employed persons of all occupational classifications at 14,470, almost 16 percent of all employment listed in the survey. The next highest was *Sales & Related Occupations* at almost 10 percent of the total, or 8,930 persons. The smallest occupational category was *Legal Occupations*, at 500, making up .05 percent of the total employed.

Northeast Idaho Table 4: Wage Survey Results			
Occupational Classification	# Employed	% Employed	Avg Hourly Wage
Management	6,050	6.6	\$ 29.03
Business & Financial Operations	2,420	2.7	\$ 22.26
Computer & Mathematical	1,350	1.5	\$ 26.38
Architecture & Engineering	1,660	1.8	\$ 25.35
Life, Physical, & Social Science	2,200	2.4	\$ 24.97
Community & Social Service	1,150	1.3	\$ 16.74
Legal Occupations	500	0.5	\$ 22.49
Education, Training, & Library	4,580	5.0	\$ 16.79
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports & Media	1,050	1.2	\$ 14.49
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	3,570	3.9	\$ 23.42
Healthcare Support	2,330	2.6	\$ 8.89
Protective Service	2,150	2.4	\$ 14.81
Food Preparation & Serving-Related	5,730	6.3	\$ 7.39
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	2,790	3.1	\$ 9.44
Personal Care & Service	930	1.0	\$ 9.30
Sales & Related	8,930	9.8	\$ 11.33
Office & Administrative	14,470	15.9	\$ 11.49
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	1,900	2.1	\$ 8.44
Construction & Extraction	5,740	6.3	\$ 16.51
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	4,300	4.7	\$ 17.22
Production	7,050	7.7	\$ 13.26
Transportation & Material Moving	8,390	9.2	\$ 11.76
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>91,030</b>		<b>\$ 29.03</b>

## AREA DEVELOPMENTS

### Bonneville County

- The Wal-Mart Superstore on Hitt Road in Ammon plans its grand opening on March 19. The store is more than 205,000-square feet and will employ close to 500 people. Daylight Donuts plans to open at Taylor Crossing on the River in Idaho Falls this March; it will be in the same building as L.W.'s Chevron Convenience Store and Iceburg Inn. Morris Murdock Travel of Idaho Falls joined the Carlson Wagonlit Travel Associate program, which will allow the business to increase its exposure, assist with commercial business development, and participate in other association programs. Prescription Center Home Care plans a March opening for a larger, state-of-the-art facility at 2250 Coronado in Idaho Falls, located between the new Mountain View Hospital and Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center. It will house an ambulatory infusion center where patients can receive doctor-ordered care in a clinical setting as an alternative to receiving care at home. It will also have a "Class 1,000" Clean Room for preparation of pharmaceutical IVs. It will employ 20 to 35 people. Its Prescription Center Pharmacy at 245 North Placer will remain in operation at its current location.

Tanya Albán, Regional Labor Economist  
 150 Shoup Avenue, Idaho Falls, ID 83402  
 (208) 557-2500, ext. 3587  
 E-mail: talban@jobservice.us